

A photograph of the Washington State Capitol building, featuring a large dome and classical columns, surrounded by green trees and colorful flowers in the foreground.

# College Bound Scholarship Sign-up Rates

Sarah Weiss | Associate Director, College Access & Support | January 18, 2017



WASHINGTON STUDENT  
ACHIEVEMENT COUNCIL  
EDUCATION · OPPORTUNITY · RESULTS



## College Bound Primer

- Legislation, specifically eligibility
- Sign-up process: two-steps

## Dissecting sign-up rates

- Applications continue to grow
- Initial rate
- Reconciled rate

## Moving forward – best practices

- WSAC portal and online application: student upload, letters, and data monitoring
- Know your eligible students throughout the year
- Upload ≠ “one and done”



# College Bound Scholarship Commitment



- ✧ Early commitment of state financial aid to eligible **7th and 8th** grade students.
- ✧ Combines with other state financial aid to cover the average cost of tuition (at comparable public college rates), some fees, and a small book allowance. **This is the commitment.**
- ✧ Can be used at 66 two- and four-year public and private colleges and universities.



# College Bound Scholarship eligibility: a two-step process

## ***Step One***

Apply in 7th ***or*** 8th grade, by June 30 of 8th grade year.

Foster youth are auto-enrolled.

Meet income requirements; verified on the application.

## ***Step Two***

Fulfill the College Bound Pledge.

Meet income requirements; verified by the college using information from FAFSA or WASFA.

Be accepted to and attend an eligible college within one year of graduating high school.



# Dissecting sign-up rates: starting with the “or”

7th OR 8th  
grade

- Complete CBS application in 7th or 8th grade, by June 30 of 8th grade year.

Eligibility  
timeframe

- Meet income requirements during 7th or 8th grade.

Populations  
grow

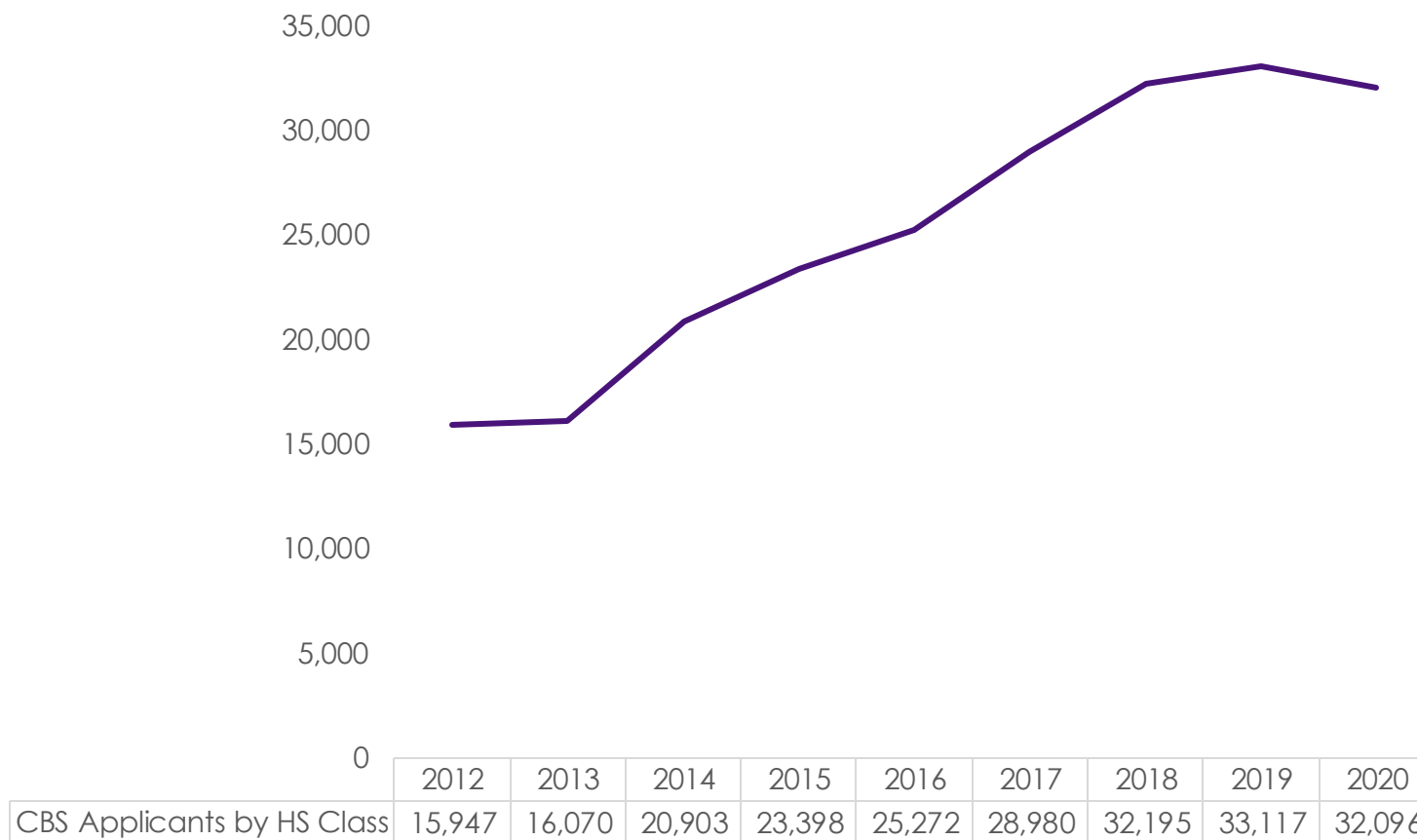
- Application cycle is inclusive of two years.
- Eligible populations grow approximately 18-20 percent when counting all eligible students during that time period.



# Applications continue to grow

As of January 2017:

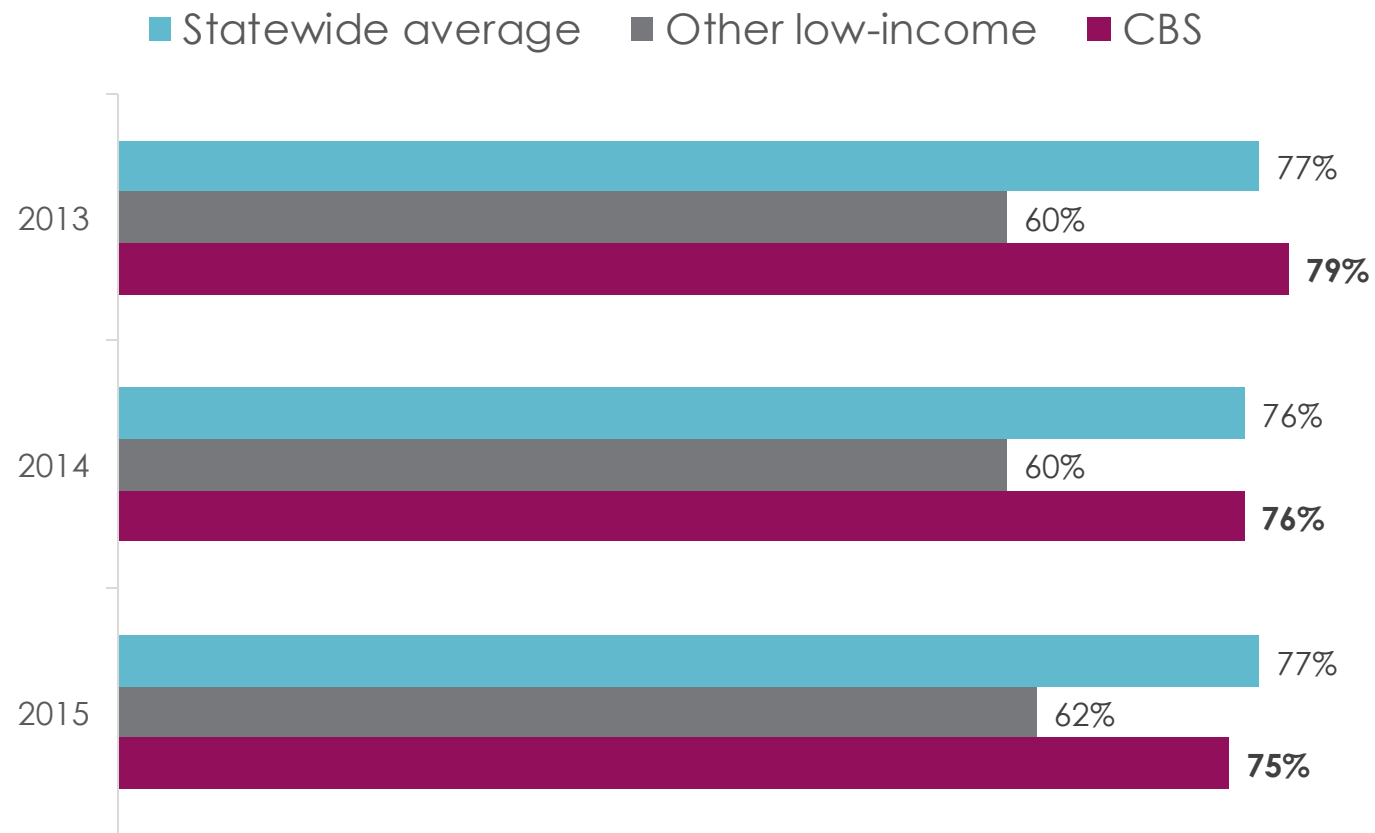
- Over 250,000 applications on file.



Source: WSAC CBS Application Data 2006-07 to 2015-16.

# Making an impact on high school graduation rates

Graduation rates for CBS students are at least ten percentage points higher than that of their non-CBS low-income peers.



Source: OSPI staff analysis of WSAC CBS applicant data.

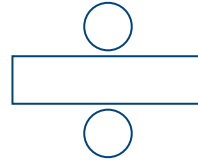




## Initial sign-up rate (historical calculation)

Number of complete CBS applications (=school enrolled at time of application).

2020 cohort: 32,096



Free and Reduced Price Lunch eligible students based on data schools submit to OSPI in the fall of the cohort's 7th grade=**snapshot**.

2020 cohort: 35,953 = 89%





# Why the change in sign-up rate methodology?

## Partnership with OSPI on a moving target (eligibility counts):

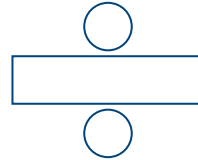
- Access to real-time FRPL data is limited – USDA privacy guidelines.
- More comprehensive view of eligibility = truer picture of those missing the CBS opportunity.
- Accounts for student mobility.



## Reconciled sign-up rate

Complete CBS applications  
(=school enrolled at the  
end of 8th grade).

2020 cohort: 30,140



Number of students who  
became eligible for FRPL  
anytime during their 7th or  
8th grade year based on  
data schools submit to OSPI.

2020 cohort: 42,436 = 71%



# Explanatory materials

## Washington Student Achievement Council College Bound Scholarship Sign-up Rates

### WHAT IS THE INITIAL RATE? WHAT IS THE RECONCILED RATE?

In the past, to calculate the percentage of eligible students who completed an application for the College Bound Scholarship, the Washington Student Achievement Council (WSAC) used the number of seventh graders reported as eligible for Free and Reduced Price Lunch (FRPL) by the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) in October.

A more complete view of eligible student counts that includes anyone ever eligible for FRPL during their seventh or eighth grade years. This rate includes students who became FRPL eligible after the October snapshot in the seventh grade year and are still enrolled in your school at the end of their eighth grade year.



#### WHY THE CHANGE?

The reconciled sign-up rate provides a more comprehensive view of students applying for the program and a truer number of eligible students who missed the opportunity to sign up for the College Bound Scholarship. Frequent monitoring of newly eligible students in your district will increase the number of students applying for this opportunity.



#### WHEN WILL THE NEW RATE BE AVAILABLE?

WSAC is providing the reconciled sign-up rate at the state, district, and school-levels this fall, starting with the 2019 and 2020 cohorts. Moving forward, the rate will be shared annually in the fall for your most recent eighth grade cohort. WSAC will continue to provide benchmarking reports to measure progress during the year but will focus on complete application counts instead of an initial sign-up rate.



#### MIDDLE SCHOOL (MS) TOOLBOX: Maximize Student Sign-ups

- Authorized school staff may frequently upload the names of eligible seventh and eighth grade students into WSAC's secure portal starting the application process for many students at once.
- The Toolbox displays live data in an interactive web environment.
- Weekly data updates from OSPI display transfer students on your lists more quickly.
- This process makes applying easier and faster for you and your students. For more information, see our Middle School Toolbox Best Practices flyer.



#### WCAN REGIONAL SUPPORT

- The Washington College Access Network (WCAN) has eight regionally-based College Bound Program Officers who can assist your district with sign up strategy, problem solving, resources, and support.
- Visit [www.wcan.org/about/contact-us](http://www.wcan.org/about/contact-us) to connect with your regional staff.

The College Bound Scholarship is administered by the Washington Student Achievement Council. For more information about the program visit [www.collegebound.wa.gov](http://www.collegebound.wa.gov), or contact us at [collegebound@wsac.wa.gov](mailto:collegebound@wsac.wa.gov).



## College Bound Fall Scholarship Report Glossary

*Are you using the MS Toolbox to upload your eligible students? This process makes applying easier and faster for you and your students. To view statewide data, please visit [www.wsac.wa.gov/college-bound](http://www.wsac.wa.gov/college-bound).*

**Complete CBS Applications:** The number of applications completed based on initial school of record when application was submitted.

**Initial Eligible:** The number of Free and Reduced Price Lunch eligible students based on data schools submit to OSPI in the fall of the cohort's 7th grade year, the first year students are eligible to apply for the College Bound Scholarship.

**Initial Rate:** Calculated using the number of *complete applications* divided by the number of *initial eligible* students.

**Reconciled Complete:** The number of students with complete applications who were attending a specific school at the end of their 8th grade year. This school may be different from the one that they were attending when they originally applied for the College Bound Scholarship.

**Reconciled Eligible:** Number of students who became eligible for Free and Reduced Price Lunch anytime during the 7th or 8th grade year based on data schools submit to OSPI.

**Reconciled Rate:** Calculated using the number of *reconciled complete applications* divided by the number of *reconciled eligible students*.

**Missed Opportunity:** The number of students in the district who missed the opportunity to apply for the College Bound Scholarship. This is calculated using reconciled numbers.

*Note: In cases where either the initial or reconciled rate exceeds 100%, more eligible students (i.e. foster youth, students not signed up for Free and Reduced Price Lunch, etc.) than those reported to OSPI applied for the scholarship.*

Now  
What?



# Maximizing sign-ups and best practices





# College Bound Portal (MS Toolbox)

## Imports/ App Entry

- Upload eligible students (start with FRPL, expand to other eligibility).
- October of 7th grade is recommended for *first* upload.
- Upload frequently in 7th-8th grade to capture newly eligible students.
- Online application [www.collegebound.wa.gov](http://www.collegebound.wa.gov).

## Student Files

- Student Lookup Tool
- Application history
- Downloadable lists

## Missing Info Letters

- Print letters for signature and income verification after upload and send/scan to Washington Student Achievement Council regularly.

**The College Bound Scholarship  
Middle School Toolbox Best Practices**

**Why use the Middle School Toolbox?**

Make applying easier and faster for you and your students. Upload your list of eligible students, print their forms, and track their progress, all in one place.

The MS Toolbox displays live data. Once an application is entered, whether by you or your student, the student will appear in your list. And, with weekly data updates from OSPI, transfer students will appear on your lists more quickly.

**How to use the Middle School Toolbox.**

- 1** Upload your eligible students for an instant application! Just a few students missing? You can enter them individually via the online application at [www.collegebound.wa.gov](http://www.collegebound.wa.gov) in less than 30 seconds per student.
- 2** Print Missing Information Letters immediately after uploading and distribute to your students with the new Middle School Intro to CBS flyer or a brochure. NEW FEATURE FOR 2016-2017: Only working with one grade of students? Choose which class you want to reprint forms for instead of printing for all students.
- 3** Download lists of students with complete applications. Compare this list against your list of all eligible students to find out who has not yet applied. Missing students from your list? Use the look-up tool to search the entire state for your student.
- 4** Update student information. You can correct the spelling of student names, update mailing addresses, parent information, and even notify WSAC of a wrong grade.

Contact Christina Richmond at  
[collegebound@wsac.wa.gov](mailto:collegebound@wsac.wa.gov)

The Washington College Access Network (WCAN) is committed to making significant change in our state by partnering with the Washington Student Achievement Council (WSAC) and college readiness practitioners that support all students to graduate from high school and access postsecondary education. WCAN collaborates with K-12 schools and districts, state agencies, existing college-access providers and community-based organizations.

## our MISSION

Increase postsecondary enrollment for all Washington state students with a focus on underserved students. We do this by strengthening schools, offering customized training, supporting college readiness teams, and promoting key statewide awareness campaigns.

## what we OFFER

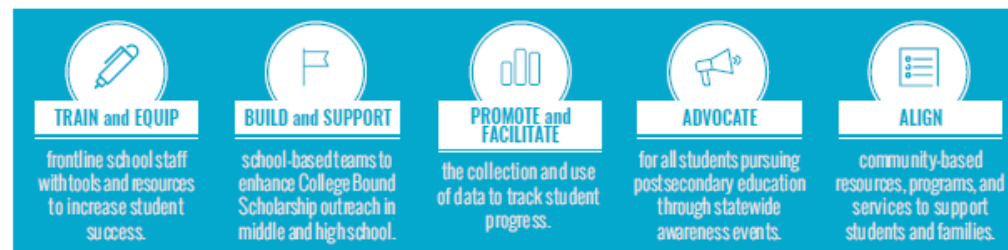
### Middle Schools

- Regional and site-based College Bound Scholarship training, networking, and professional development
- Assistance in developing or growing middle school teams to increase College Bound Scholarship sign-up rates
- Tools and resources to develop a college-going culture

### High Schools

- Regional and site-based College Bound Scholarship training, networking, and professional development
- Assistance in designing or growing school-based college readiness teams to increase awareness of college pathways
- WSAC 12th Year Campaign Support – College Application Campaign and FAFSA/WASFA Completion Campaign
- College Bound Re-Pledge Campaign
- College Signing Celebrations - Celebration of all students making the commitment to pursue postsecondary education after high school

## our STRATEGY



## our RESULTS

- **94%** of participants implemented **TOOLS** or **BEST PRACTICES** within 30 days of attending a training.
- **94%** of participants reported **SHARING** tools and best practices with others in their school.
- College Bound sign-up rates increased from **56% to 91%** in 8 years since 2007.
- **60+ SCHOOLS** engaged in College Signing events that celebrated postsecondary options for over 11,000 students.

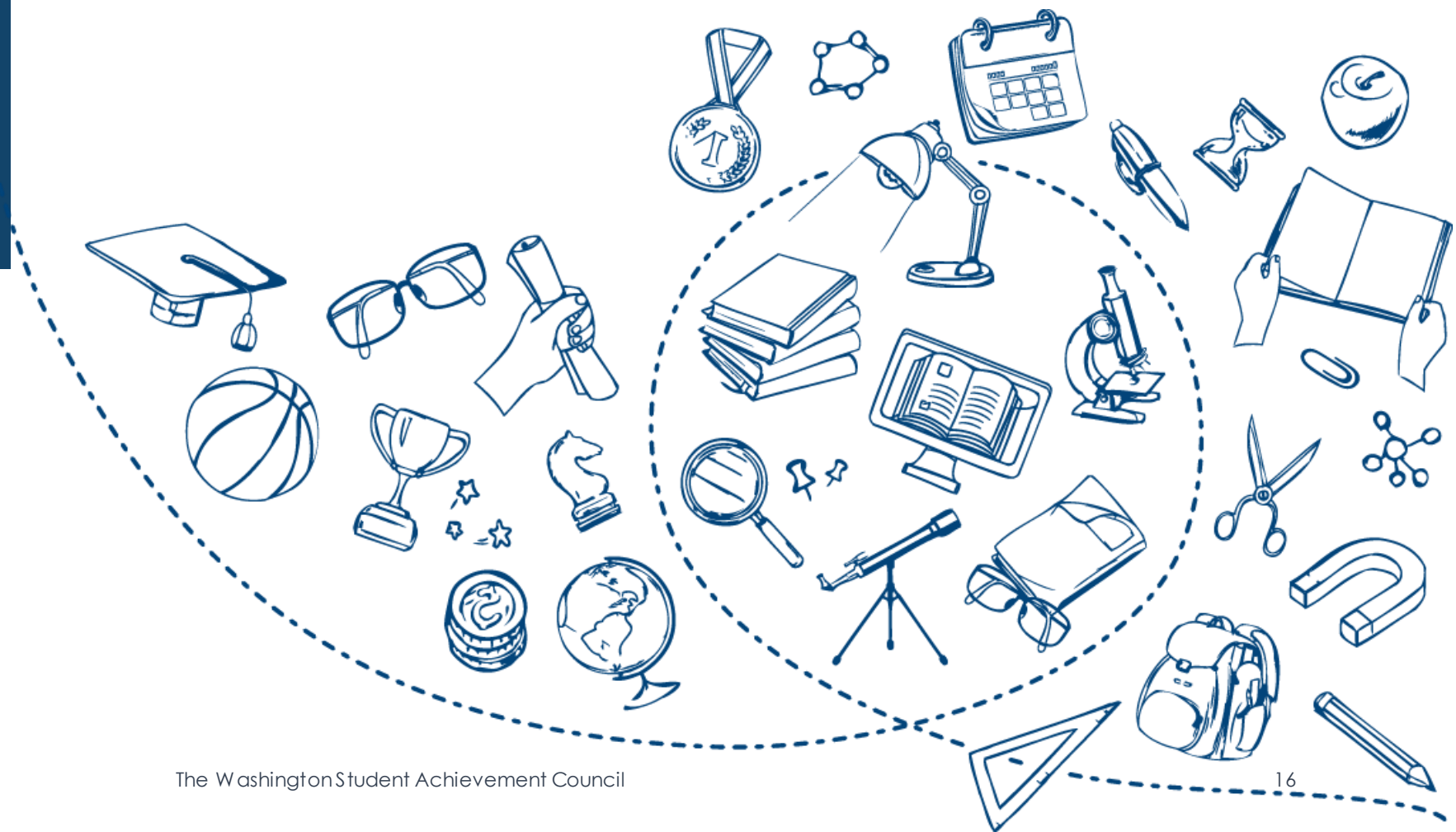
## contact US

Access toolkits and learn more about our trainings, and campaigns, and meet our team by visiting [wcan.org](http://wcan.org).



# Order FREE materials online

NEW brochures,  
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## Continue the conversation

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360-753-7630

Need another packet?  
Email  
[collegebound@wsac.wa.gov](mailto:collegebound@wsac.wa.gov)



### Online:

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- [www.thewashboard.org](http://www.thewashboard.org)
- [www.get.wa.gov](http://www.get.wa.gov)



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